

Fierce Pressure Used By U.S., Nasser Says

From News Dispatches

CAIRO, July 22—Egypt's President Nasser said today the United States tried to pressure Egypt with "astonishing" demands in return for U.S. aid—to refrain from producing nuclear weapons, to accept American military inspectors and to stop producing rockets.

In a speech marking the 13th anniversary of the revolution that brought him to power, Nasser also said that peace talks were under way with Saudi Arabia to end the civil war in Yemen, but warned that if the talks failed it could mean war with Saudi Arabia.

Nasser renewed his criticism of the Baath Party government in Syria, and attacked Britain for interfering in Yemen and the Persian Gulf.

Nasser told a crowd estimated by Cairo Radio at 500,000, "Friendship with the United States is not achieved with pressure or with the activities of the CIA."

This was an apparent reference to the arrest yesterday of Egyptian newspaper editor Mustafa Amin for giving U.S. political attache Bruce T. Odell a document containing information "harmful" to Egypt. Odell was arrested and held for 90 minutes, the semi-official Middle East News Agency said today.

MENA described Odell as "working for the CIA under the guise of attache at the American Embassy," and said Amin—editor of the influential Akhbar el-Yaum—had been "supported for a long time by the CIA."

(In Washington, the State Department withheld any immediate comment on Nasser's speech. It said earlier that Cairo police questioned Odell and released him.)

In his one hour, 50-minute address, Nasser said that as the United States gave Egypt essential aid of wheat shipments, "relations improved in 1959 and 1960, but as the wheat supplies increased, then began the pressure basically concerning Israel."

In addition to the requests that Egypt stop modern arms production, "in 1963 they agreed to give us arms if we allowed American officers to make inspections," Nasser said.

"We said we did not want the arms . . . We also refused their conditions . . . we were not producing nuclear weapons and we told them this, but their conditions were absurd."

Nasser said the U.S. aid agreement, which has now expired, totaled 80 million Egyptian pounds (\$18 million), "but we are not ready to sell our country, to depend on the United States for our existence and obey orders."

Nasser also spoke frankly of Egypt's internal economic problems and said that although Egypt's production and investment were rising, the population growth was making real progress difficult and hazardous.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad summoned U.S. Ambassador Lucius D. Battle to his office this afternoon to inform him of facts in the case of the arrested official and editor.

When arrested in Alexandria, Amin was reportedly giving Odell his written answers to Odell's handwritten questions. MENA said the answers contained political, economic and military information.

Akhbar al-Yaum is one of Egypt's leading newspaper and Amin is one of the country's top editors. He and his twin brother Aly graduated from Georgetown University in Washington and both have been accused of being pro-American by left-wing Egyptian journalists.

Akhbar's policy before the Egyptian revolution of 1952 was pro-monarchy and pro-American, but in 1950 it turned strongly against the pre-revolutionary regime.

In 1960 President Nasser nationalized the Egyptian press and the Amin brothers were removed from their own newspapers. They were quickly brought back, largely through the influence of Nasser's friend Mohammed Hasanein Heikal, editor of the Cairo daily al-Ahram, the Manchester Guardian reported. Heikal was grateful to the Amins for having taught him modern journalism—and believed the Cairo press should remain in professional hands.

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